

# *News from the Wyoming Department of Health*

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

## **Back to School May Mean Vaccinations for Kids**

*August is National Immunization Awareness Month*

With the new school year quickly approaching, the Wyoming Department of Health is reminding parents to make sure their kids have received the vaccines they need.

“Vaccines are safe and effective, and they offer important protection against a number of preventable diseases,” said Dr. Brent Sherard, Wyoming Department of Health director and state health officer.

Sherard said certain vaccines are required for all youth attending school in Wyoming. “Beyond the required immunizations, there are others we recommend to help keep Wyoming’s children healthy,” he said.

“I recommend parents contact the medical professional their children regularly see to check on their immunizations,” he said. “It’s a good idea to find out before school is in full swing if there are some vaccines your child needs.”

The Wyoming Immunization Program’s Wyoming Vaccinates Important People (WyVIP) program provides vaccines at no cost to participating providers for Wyoming children from birth until the day before the 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. There are more than 130 providers enrolled in the WyVIP program across the state. While the state provides the vaccines for free, providers may charge a small administration fee for each shot.

Sherard also asked parents to “stay tuned” for more information about flu vaccines this fall and winter. “Beyond the seasonal flu vaccine we recommend every year, there will likely be a separate vaccine available to help protect people from the new swine flu virus that has been circulating in Wyoming over the summer,” he explained. “We’re asking parents to pay attention to future announcements from state and local health officials about these important vaccines and their availability.”

To see a listing of current WyVIP vaccines or to find a local WyVIP provider, visit [www.immunizewyoming.com](http://www.immunizewyoming.com), call (307) 777-7952, or contact your local public health nursing office.

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